

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALEAP

TREASURY

USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

COGARD POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: AUGUST 9 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. WH CRISIS TOUCHES OFF JITTERS IN VN. GVN OFFICIAL SAYS LAST ACT IN WATERGATE DRAMA GIVES NVN AND VC "RIGHT OPPORTUNITY" FOR ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE (AP, NYPOST 8/8). SVN VIEWS EVENTS IN WASHINGTON WITH FOREBODING. GVN OFFICIAL SEES NEXT FEW MONTHS AS MOST DANGEROUS FOR SVN (AP, SUN; WP). MIL SOURCES SAY SVN ARMED FORCES PUT ON NATIONWIDE ALERT AGAINST POSSIBLE LARGE-SCALE COMMUNIST ATTACKS FOLLOWING NIXON RESIGNATION. THIEU CALLS EMERGENCY CABINET SESSION
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TO DISCUSS SITUATION (REUTER SAIGON).

2. WASHINGTON REPORTS INDICATE NVN PUTS SOME OF ITS SIX HOME-BASED DIVISIONS ON ALERT (AP, NYPOST 8/8). US OFFICIALS MORE CONCERNED THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE C-F. SOME ANALYSTS SUGGEST HANOI MAY REGARD ADMIN TURMOIL AS CHANCE TO STRIKE HARD IN SVN. CURRENT ASSESSMENT IS STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT NVN MAY WIDEN MIL OPNS INTO COUNTRYWIDE OFFENSIVE (CHITRIB). US OFFICIALS DENY THAT THEIR EXPRESSIONS OF WORRY ARE INTENDED TO INFLUENCE SENATE TO RESTORE 300 MILLION DOLLAR HOUSE CUT IN MIL AID FOR SVN; SAY NVN PRESSURE

IN SOUTH BUILDING UP FOR MONTHS (AP, NYT). SEE ALERT OF NVA HOME DIVISIONS AS ESPECIALLY OMINOUS SINCE RAISES SPECTER OF INVASION OF SOUTH AS IN 1972. NVN INFILTRATION AND SUPPLY MOVEMENT IN SVN ALSO UP AS SOME SHIFTING OF HQS AND OTHER EVIDENCE OF MAJOR MOVES (AP, PHINQ). ANALYSTS SAY OVER 200,000 NVA COMBAT TROOPS IN ELEVEN DIVISIONS ARE STATIONED IN SVN, WITH 100-150,000 SUPPORT TROOPS AND GUERRILLAS, AS WELL AS 300-350,000 TROOPS STATIONED IN NORTH. US OFFICIALS SAY 400,000-MAN ARVN IS MUCH IMPROVED AND US COULD RUSH IN AMMO AND OTHER SUPPLIES AND THUS SUPPORT SVN AGAINST NVA ASSAULT (AP, S-N 8/8).

3. DOD SPOKESMAN SAYS THERE ARE SIGNS OF FURTHER NVA BUILDUP IN SOUTH AND INCREASED READINESS OF UNITS AT HOME, BUT PENTAGON HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING IF HANOI PLANS TO ESCALATE FIGHTING INTO NATIONWIDE OFFENSIVE; SITUATION BEING WATCHED. ADDS THAT DOD WILL ASK CONGRESS TO RESTORE 300 MILLION HOUSE CUT IN MIL AID FOR SVN (REUTER, SUN).

4. SHIPLER (NYT) AT SAIGON SAYS MG MURRAY, HIGHEST-RANKING MIL OFFICER IN SVN, "ANGRILY DENOUNCED" CUTS IN MIL AID, STOPPED SHORT OF PREDICTING DEFEAT, CONTENDED THAT AMMO SHORTAGES HAD ALREADY CAUSED INCREASED ARVN CASUALTIES. SAYS ON-THE-RECORD INTERVIEW WAS FIRST COMMENT ON CUTS BY ANYONE CLOSE TO SVN MIL SITUATION; MURRAY IS DEFENSE ATTACHE, UNCLASSIFIED

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OVERSEES MIL AID. SHIPLER COMMENTS THAT PROGRAM CONTROVERSIAL BECAUSE APPEARS TO PROVIDE THIEU WITH POWER TO RESIST POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AS PRESCRIBED BY C-F. MIL MEN WHO FOLLOW SITUATION CLOSELY SAY ECONOMY MEASURES HAVE ALREADY HURT BATTLES BECAUSE ARVN TRAINED BY US TO USE PLENTY OF AMMO AND AIR POWER AND RETRAINING WILL BE BIG PROBLEM. ONE MIL OBSERVER SAYS RECENT SUCCESSFUL COMMUNIST

ATTACK AT BEN CAT COULD HAVE BEEN REPULSED IF NOT FOR AMMO SHORTAGE. US MECHANICS WHO SERVICE NEW F-5ES SAY NONE YET SENT INTO COMBAT, PARTLY FOR FEAR OF LOSING THEM. SHIPLER OPINES THAT AID CUTBACKS LIKELY TO AFFECT US CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS WHO PROVIDE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE FOR SVN FORCES.

5. SVN SPOKESMAN SAYS GOVT HAS CLOSED 29 PRIVATE NEWS AGENCIES THAT WERE OPERATING WITHOUT LICENSES; STATES THEY OFTEN CARRIED "ERRONEOUS, GROUNDLESS AND LIBELOUS" INFO (AP, CHITRIB).

6. NLF DELEGATION SPOKESMAN IN SAIGON DESCRIBES THUONG DUCFALL AS "SERIOUS WARNING BLOW" AGAINST US-SAIGON WAR POLICY (CSM). VNAF BLASTS NVA WHO OVERRAN THUONG DUC (AP, PHINQ; WP). COMMUNIST FORCES REPORTEDLY INFILTRATING TOWARD DA NANG. SURVIVORS SAY CIVILIAN AND MIL CASUALTIES AT THUONG DUC WERE HEAVY, BUT NO FIRM COUNT. PRE-BATTLE POPULATION ESTIMATED AT 5000, INCLUDING 1000 SOLDIERS (WP).

7. SUN'S ISAACS FROM CAN THO WRITES OF CONTINUING BLOODSHED IN DELTA, WITH GVN CASUALTIES ABOUT AS HIGH YEAR FOLLOWING C-F AS YEAR BEFORE. DEP MIL COMMANDER OF DELTA SAYS THERE IS NO TALK ABOUT WHETHER C-F EFFECTIVE, BECAUSE HASN'T BEEN ANY C-F. ISAACS SAYS FEW LARGE BATTLES TAKE PLACE BUT CONTINUOUS SMALL CLASHES IN POPULOUS AREA TAKE CONSTANT TOLL. RFS AND PFS BEAR MAIN BURDEN OF DEFENDING POPULATION, BUT EVEN REGULAR ARVN DIVISIONS ARE WIDELY SCATTERED GUARDING VILLAGES, ROADS AND BRIDGES. HALF-MILLION GVN SOLDIERS FACE ESTIMATED 60,000 UNCLASSIFIED

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VC, BUT LATTER NOT TIED DOWN AND CAN PICK TARGETS AND STRIKE AT WILL. MIL BALANCE IN DELTA SIMILAR TO WHAT PREVAILED BEFORE C-F, WITH RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL, BUT LARGER NUMBER IN CONTESTED AREAS. GVN CLAIMS CONTROL OF POPULATION IN CONTESTED AREA, BUT "REPORTER'S GLIMPSES" SUGGEST MANY CIVILIANS DO WHAT THEY CAN TO GET ALONG WITH BOTH SIDES AND GVN NOT NECESSARILY MORE INFLUENTIAL THAN COMMUNISTS. SOME VILLAGERS SAY SITUATION NOW MORE TENSE THAN BEFORE C-F. ISAACS OPINES THAT, AS IN REST OF COUNTRY, VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHICH SIDE MORE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTINUED FIGHTING, BUT LITTLE DOUBT THAT MORE BATTLES INITIATED BY COMMUNISTS, AS WAS PATTERN BEFORE C-F.

LONG BORET LEAVES PP FOR UNANNOUNCED TOUR
OF ASEAN NATIONS. DEPARTURE GIVES RISE TO SPECULATION
HE WILL ASK ASEAN HELP IN STARTING PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN GKR AND "KHMER ROUGE" (AFP, PHINQ).

9. NYT'S MALCOLM BROWN IN MOSCOW REPORTS THAT
PRAVDA IN EFFECT CALLS ON GKR TO STEP DOWN IN
FAVOR OF INSURGENTS. ARTICLE SAYS ONLY US MIL
CIRCLES PROP UP GKR WHICH IS NO LONGER CAPABLE
OF SOLVING ECON, SOCIAL OR POLITICAL PROBLEMS
AND CHARACTERIZED BY MIL DEFEATS AND CHAOS. BROWN

NOTES THAT, PARADOXICALLY, MOSCOW AND PP APPARENTLY
INTEND TO CONTINUE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. COMMENTS
THAT AS MOSCOW INTEREST IN INSURGENTS APPEARS
TO INCREASE, SIHANOUK RARELY MENTIONED IN NEWS
ARTICLES BUT KHIEU SAMPHAN FIGURES PROMINENTLY
IN DISPATCHES. SINCE OCTOBER, SOVIET HAS KEPT
ONLY TOKEN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN PP, BUT
GKR MAINTAINS FOUR DIPLOMATS IN MOSCOW, AND GRUNK
HAS TWO. PRAVDA ASSERTS THAT INSURGENTS CONTROL
90-PERCENT OF LAND AND 70-PERCENT OF POPULATION;
DESCRIBES REBEL ADMIN AS REPRESENTATIVE, PATRIOTIC
AND FOR INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM, PEACE, AND NEUTRALITY.
CONCLUDES THAT "FOREIGN INTERFERENCE" IN CAMBODIA
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SHOULD END TO LET PEOPLE THEMSELVES DECIDE WHICH
SIDE SHOULD PREVAIL.

CHINA

AFP PEKING DESPATCH (WP) REPORTS AUGUST ISSUE
FOR PARTY AND NATIONAL UNITY, INDICATING THAT
"DIVISIVE" FORCES ARE AT WORK. MAGAZINE SAID
6-MONTH- OLD CRITICISM CAMPAIGN INEVITABLY
PROVOKED OPPOSITION AND SABOTAGE BY "THE WHOLE
INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL REACTION." ADDED IT WAS
ESSENTIAL THAT "ALL REVOLUTIONARY COMRADES"
REALIZE IMPORTANCE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNITY AND
"SURMOUNT THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS THAT HARM UNITY
AND THE UNION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY RANKS."

11.AP TOKYO (CSM) REPORTS PEOPLE'S DAILY ANSWERING
AGENCY THAT CHINA HAS IMPERIALISTIC DESIGNS. PD
ATTACKS USSR STAND AT LOS CONFERENCE, MAKES
ACCUSATION THAT RUSSIAN SHIPS PLUNDER FISHING
RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND ARE USED FOR
SPYING. PD ARTICLE, BROADCASTED BY NCNA, LUMPED

USSR WITH US AS "ROOT CAUSE" OF UNEASINESS IN WORLD TODAY. ADDED THAT "FRANTIC EXPANSION AND PLUNDER" BY THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MADE PROPOSALS IN RECENT YEARS FOR 200-MILE LIMIT OF COUNTRY'S OFFSHORE ECON CONTROL "IRRESISTIBLE" TO POOR COUNTRIES.

12. CHARLES SMITH OF UPI HK (CHITRIB) WRITES TONGUE-IN-CHEEK PIECE ON SONGS POSSIBLY ELIGIBLE TO MAKE PRC'S "TOP 10. " PLACES AT TOP OF LIST "ALL-TIME FAVORITE THAT ALMOST NOBODY DARES OMIT":

LONG LIVE CHAIRMAN MAO.

,3. NYT'S JOHN RUSSELL IN TORONTO WRITES GENERALLY THAT ANALECTS OF CONFUCIUS HAS BEEN DROPPED, AND SHOWING IS NOT COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF CHINESE ACHIEVEMENT IN ART SINCE NOTHING IN IT IS DATED LATER THAN AD 1368. SAYS ALTHOUGH IT MOST CERTAINLY UNCLASSIFIED

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VINDICATES HONOR OF PRESENT REGIME IN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH ARCHEOLOGY, IT NECESSARILY OMITTS LARGE PART OF WHAT MOST PEOPLE THINK OF AS "CHINESE ART."

KOREA

14. NYT'S BUTTERFIELD IN SEOUL REPORTS 26 MORE CONVICTED OF SUBVERSION THURSDAY AND 19 OTHERS PLACED ON TRIAL, (CSM, PHINQ, WP), IN APPARENT ROKG ATTEMPT TO SPEED UP PRESENT SERIES OF TRIALS. CITES DEFMIN SPOKESMAN THAT 26 DEFENDANTS GOT 3 TO 15-YEAR PRISON TERMS; MOST SOURCES SAY THEY ARE STUDENTS. ALL CHARGED WITH INVOLVEMENT IN ALLEGED COMMUNIST PLOT TO OVERTHROW PARK GOVT.

NINETEEN DEFENDANTS BROUGHT TO 79 NUMBER OF NEW CASES ACKNOWLEDGED BY GOVT IN LAST TWO DAYS. NINETY-ONE PERSONS CONVICTED IN EARLIER COURTS-MARTIAL UNDER EMERGENCY DECREE.

PARK MAKING ALL DECISIONS ON WHO WILL BE TRIED AND WHEN, ACCORDING "WELL-INFORMED OFFICIALS." PARK SAID TO BE DETERMINED TO COMPLETE ALL TRIALS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE DESPITE WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM AND MOUNTING CONCERN AMONG MANY SK OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, SPECULATION GROWING THAT AFTER ALL SENTENCED, PARK WILL MOVE TO REDUCE SENTENCES DRASTICALLY AND CHANGE SOME EMERGENCY DECREES. NOTES NEW SESSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD IN EVEN MORE SECRECY THAN EARLIER SESSIONS, IN WHICH

91 WERE CONVICTED; ATTRIBUTES INCREASED SECRECY TO ROKG'S APPARENT HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY OVER REACTION TO TRIALS.

OPEN REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN SEOUL. WITH HELP OF BRANCHES IN HK, SINGAPORE AND LONDON, BANK HOPES THAT ITS REPRESENTATIVE BANK IN SEOUL WILL ASSIST KOREA'S GROWING ECONOMY BY FINANCING CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS. NEW OFFICE WILL ALSO ESTABLISH CLOSER TRADE RELATIONS IN KOREA FOR ITS US DOMESTIC CUSTOMERS.

JAPAN
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16. CHITRIB'S KIRK REPORTS BANNED "NEW JAPANESE HISTORY" TEXT NOW BEST SELLER. WRITTEN TEN YEARS AGO AS BASIC HIGH SCHOOL TEXTBOOK, WAS OPPOSED FOR USE IN SCHOOLS BY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DUE TO UNORTHODOX INTERPRETATIONS. PORTRAYS JAPAN'S ENTRY INTO WW-II AS "RECKLESS" AND SUGGESTS REVERENCE FOR EMPEROR "NOT BASED ON THE DEMANDS OF THE MASSES." COURT RULING IN 1970 THAT EDWIN HAD NO RIGHT TO BAN BOOK REVERSED BY RECENT TOKYO COURT DECISION AMID WIDESPREAD MEDIA AND PUBLIC INTEREST.

17. IN SECOND PART OF ARTICLE ON JAPANESE TEXTILE OPERATIONS IN W TEXAS, JOC REPORTS TEXANS UNAFRAID OF JAPANESE AND OTHER FOREIGN INVESTOR DOMINATION OF TEXAS.

PHILIPPINES

18. MARCOS HAS RESTATED GOVT POLICY OF "TOLERANCE, PATIENCE, AND UNDERSTANDING" TOWARD MOSLEM SECESSIONIST REBELS, DESPITE THURSDAY'S AMBUSH OF GOVT FORCE IN PIKIT, N. COTABATO. MILITARY SOURCES SAID 12 KILLED, 81 WOUNDED, AND 19 MISSING (UPI, PHINQ).

19. BANK OF AMERICA ISSUES SURVEY, NOTING PHILS' "DILIGENT EFFORT" TO ADVANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, REFLECTING B OF A'S CONFIDENCE IN PHILIPPINES' POTENTIAL FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT (UPI, JOC).

MALAYSIA

20. RAZAK'S NATIONAL FRONT COALITION HAS WON BY DEFAULT NEARLY 1/3 OF 154 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS AT STAKE IN AUG 24 ELECTION. FRONT UNOPPOSED IN 47 CONSTITUENCIES, BOLSTERING RAZAK'S CLAIM THAT FORCES WILL WIN BY LANDSLIDE (REUTER, NYT; WP).

THAILAND

21. NITIPAT JALICHAN, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THAI NATIONAL ENERGY AUTHORITY, SAYS THAILAND SHOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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RENEW EFFORTS TO SOUND OUT JAPAN ON PROJECT TO BUILD OIL PIPELINE ACROSS S. THAILAND'S KRA ISTHMUS, AFTER RECEIVING IMPRESSION THAT JAPANESE INVESTORS MORE INTERESTED IN BUILDING OIL DEPOT IN INDONESIA'S SUNDA CHANNEL (JOC).

GENERAL

22. NY PHILHARMONIC TO LEAVE 8/10 FOR 4 WEEK TOUR OF PACIFIC. FIRST TRIP TO AUSTRALIA AND NZ AND THIRD TO JAPAN. BOTH BERNSTEIN AND BOULEZ TO CONDUCT (NYPOST 8/8/74).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

PRESIDENT RESIGNATION

23. NUMBER OF OBSERVERS CONCLUDE THAT FOREIGN AFFAIRS PLICIES WERE HALLMARK OF NIXON PRESIDENCY, AND ENDING OF VN WAR AND ESTABLISHING LINKS WITH PRC AMONG "HIGH POINTS" OF ACHIEVEMENT (NYDN'S GREENE, WP'S MARDER, NYT'S GWERTZMAN, SUN'S MILLS, GLOBE'S JHABVALA AND SNOW).

NIXON "SOUGHT TO RETAIN AMERICAN DIGNITY AND INFLUENCE" IN SEA THROUGH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO SVN AND CAMBODIA, SAYS GREENE, AND HE RE-ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH PEKING "THROUGH PERSONAL DIPLOMACY, MAKING THE BEGINNINGS OF AN ADMITTEDLY LONG, SLOW PROCESS TOWARD NORMAL INTERCOURSE BETWEEN TWO GREAT SOVEREIGN NATIONS."

WITH HELP FROM HAK'S "FRANTIC GLOBAL FOOTWORK," SAYS MILLS, NIXON BROUGHT US FORCES HOME FROM VN "WITH A FANFARE AND A SEMANTIC OVERSELL ('PEACE WITH HONOR') BUT THE ACCOMPLISHMENT "WAS NO LESS REAL...WHAT IS MORE, HE MADE A BETTER BARGAIN THAN HE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN HAD HE GIVEN IN" TO NVN IN 1969. ADDS THAT BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING US TIES WITH PRC "CAN HARDLY BE OVER-ESTIMATED." BUT MILLS MAINTAINS "THERE HAVE BEEN SOME EQUALLY OBVIOUS UNCLASSIFIED

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FAILURES" OF NIXON FOREIGN POLICY: JAPAN "WAS TREATED CRUELY" AND "STUNNED" BY SURPRISE US OPENING TO PEKING -- AND "IS STILL TRYING TO RECOVER FROM THE DOLLAR SHOCK...INDEED, THE CHIEF DEFECT" IN NIXON-HAK FOREIGN POLICY WAS "ITS INEPTNESS IN DEALING WITH FRIENDS."

SNOW SAYS "THE NIXON IMPACT CAN BE SEEN MOST OBVIOUSLY" IN VN AND CHINA AND IN "NIXON DOCTRINE AND THE NIXON SHOCKS." CONTENDS THAT "DELIBERATELY OR NOT, NIXON'S ASIA POLICIES HAVE MEANT A WEANING OF JAPAN FROM 25 YEARS OF OVER-DEPENDENCE" ON US. IN ITS OIL DIPLOMACY AND OTHER OVERSEAS POLICIES,

TOKYO "IS SHOWING NEW IMAGINATION, INDEPENDENCE AND VERVE" -- THE PATTERN "CHARACTERISTIC ALL OVER ASIA...NIXON POLICIES AND THE NIXON SHOCKS HAVE LEFT COMMUNISTS AND NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF ASIA BEGINNING TO COMMUNICATE ON A LEVEL THAT WOULD HAVE SEEMED FANCIFUL FIVE YEARS AGO... VALUE JUDGEMENTS ASIDE, RICHARD NIXON BULKS VERY LARGE IN THE MINDS OF ASIANS."

24. CHITRIB DECLARES: IF FREEDOM HOLDS ITS OWN IN SEA "NIXON CLAIM OF 'PEACE WITH HONOR' WILL BE VINDICATED." BUT IF SEA "DISSOLVES IN CORRUPTION, TYRANNY, OR COMMUNISM, THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL EFFORT OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE PROVED IN VAIN, AND ITS MOTIVES WILL BE QUESTIONED."

25. ACCORDING EVANS/NOVAK, "WHATEVER CREDITS HISTORY GIVES" NIXON WILBE MEASURED BY "HIS ACTUAL PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION" TO FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES RE CHINA, SOVIET AND ENDING VN WAR. "BUT FORMER NIXON LIEUTENANTS NOW SAY HE NEVER DID REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT VIETNAMIZATION WAS ALL ABOUT, DISMISSING IT JUST AS HE DID DEVALUATION OF THE POUND OR REVENUE SHARING. CERTAINLY HE CARED FAR LESS ABOUT VIETNAMIZATION THAN ABOUT HIS RAGING HOSTILITY TO 'ENEMIES'" (WP).

PRESIDENT FORD
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26. NYDN'S ANTEVIL SAYS FORD'S ASSUMPTION TO PRESIDENCY WILL INEVITABLY BRING SOME CHANGES

IN US FOREIGN POLICY. HOWEVER, NO QUESTIONS OF US RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND SOVIET DEMAND INSTANT RESOLUTION; DRAMATIC SHIFT IN US POLICY AWAY FROM DETENTE IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY, UNLESS PRECIPITATED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN KREMLIN OR PEKING, AND EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE IN COMING DAYS TO REASSURE FOREIGN POWERS -- CHIEFLY SOVIET AND CHINA -- THAT US "REMAINS STEADFASTLY LOYAL TO ITS FRIENDS AND VIGILANTLY STRONG IN THE FACE OF ADVERSARIES."

27 NYT'S HUNTER NOTES THAT FORD, WHILE CRITICAL AT TIMES OF LBJ'S HANDLING OF VN WAR, WAS ONE OF MOST OUTSPOKEN HAWKS IN CONGRESS THROUGHOUT JOHNSON AND NIXON ADMINISTRATIONS. HE VOTED AGAINST ALL ATTEMPTS TO LIMIT OR END US INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA, INCLUDING ONE MOVE EARLIER THIS YEAR.

28. WP'S ROSENFELD OBSERVES FORD'S CRITICISM SOME MONTHS AGO OF WAY SCHLESINGER WAS HANDLING VN AID IN CONGRESS. ADDS THAT TO JUDGE BY "POOR RESULTS" OF FORD'S OWN VP EFFORTS TO COAX MORE VN AID FROM CONGRESS, "HE HAS NO MAGICAL WAY TO BEND THE LEGISLATURE" ON ISSUES WHERE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL TO EXECUTIVE POLICY.

KOREA

29. VORST (S-N AUG 8) THINKS TIME HAS COME FOR USTO BEGIN WITHDRAWING FROM SK - "NOT IN ABDICATION OF OUR COMMITMENT" TO SK PEOPLE, "BUT IN REAFFIRMATION OF IT." SAYS PARK HAS SHOWN HE WILL NOT RESPOND TO GENTLE ENTREATIES OF A DOS EMBARRASSED BY HIS CONDUCT, OR TO WELL-MEANING REPRESENTATIONS OF OUR AMBASSADOR IN SEOUL. PARK WILL, HOWEVER, RESPOND TO GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL OF OUR TROOPS AND CUTTING OFF OF AID. VORST MAINTAINS HE IS NOT DEFENDING PRINCIPLE OF MEDDLING IN ANY COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ADDING THAT POINT EXISTS WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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HE CANNOT GO IN BACKING ANY GOVT. "PARK PUSHED US PAST THAT POINT A WHILE AGO. NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO LEAVE."

CHINA

30. FROM HK, LAT'S ELEGANT (AUG 8) DOES PIECE ON BIG-CHARACTER POSTERS, NOTING THAT THEY PLAYED MAJOR ROLE AS VEHICLE FOR PROTEST AND FORUM OF OPINION IN CHINA FOR ALMOST 2,000 YEARS. CONCLUDES

THAT PLACE OF POSTERS IN CHINA - CALLED "POEMS
TO PROMOTE OPPOSITION" IN THE 8TH CENTURY AND
"WALL NEWSPAPERS" DURING COMMUNIST'S GUERRILLA
DAYS IN 1940S - APPEARS SECURE. KISSINGER

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